

Johnson



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

September 29, 2005

Pamela J. Rasmussen,  
Team Lead, Siting and Routing  
Xcel Energy  
PO Box 8  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

RE: Minor Alteration Application for a proposed project involving 1.2 miles of new Monticello to Saint Cloud double-circuit 115/115 kV Transmission Line and expansion of the Sherburne County Substation in Sherburne County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Rasmussen:

On August 4, 2005, Xcel Energy applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a Minor Alteration Authorization to construct a 1.2 mile length of new double circuit 115/115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) and allow expansion of the existing Sherburne substation on Xcel-owned facility property in Sherburne County, Minnesota. The proposed project is located entirely in Sherburne County near the City of Becker, Minnesota.

PUC mailed notice on August 31, 2005 to those persons on the Energy Facilities general notification list and posted notice on the PUC website. Comments were due to the PUC by September 12, 2005. The PUC did not receive any comments on the project.

Due to changes by the Minnesota Legislature enacted on July 1, 2005 (see S.F. 1368, transferring generation plant siting and transmission line routing authority from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board to the PUC), the PUC is now responsible for determining whether to authorize the Minor Alteration or determine the project requires a full permitting decision.

Based on Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting staff and PUC review of the application, and given there were no public comments received following the notice, the PUC has determined that the project qualifies as a Minor Alteration and, in accordance with its authority under Minnesota Rules 4400.3820 subpart 3, authorizes Xcel Energy to proceed with the proposed project as described in its application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Burl W. Haar", is written over a circular stamp.

BURL W. HAAR  
Executive Secretary

BWH/GJ/jl

[www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us)